

WHAT IS COMIC LIFE?



Comic life is available
from :
<http://plasq.com/>

Comic Life is an award winning application for creating not just comics (obviously), but also annotated images, dynamic photo albums, greeting cards, scrap books, story books, and instruction guides and brochures. It is an excellent tool for creating reports of almost any kind. Comic Life allows you to create page layouts with boxes for images and text. Styles can be applied to create just about any type of 'feel' for your document. Captions can be created with tails in order to have thought balloons, speech boxes or just additional annotations. Filters are available to turn your digital images into a variety of hand drawn looking graphics to enhance the comic appearance of your work.

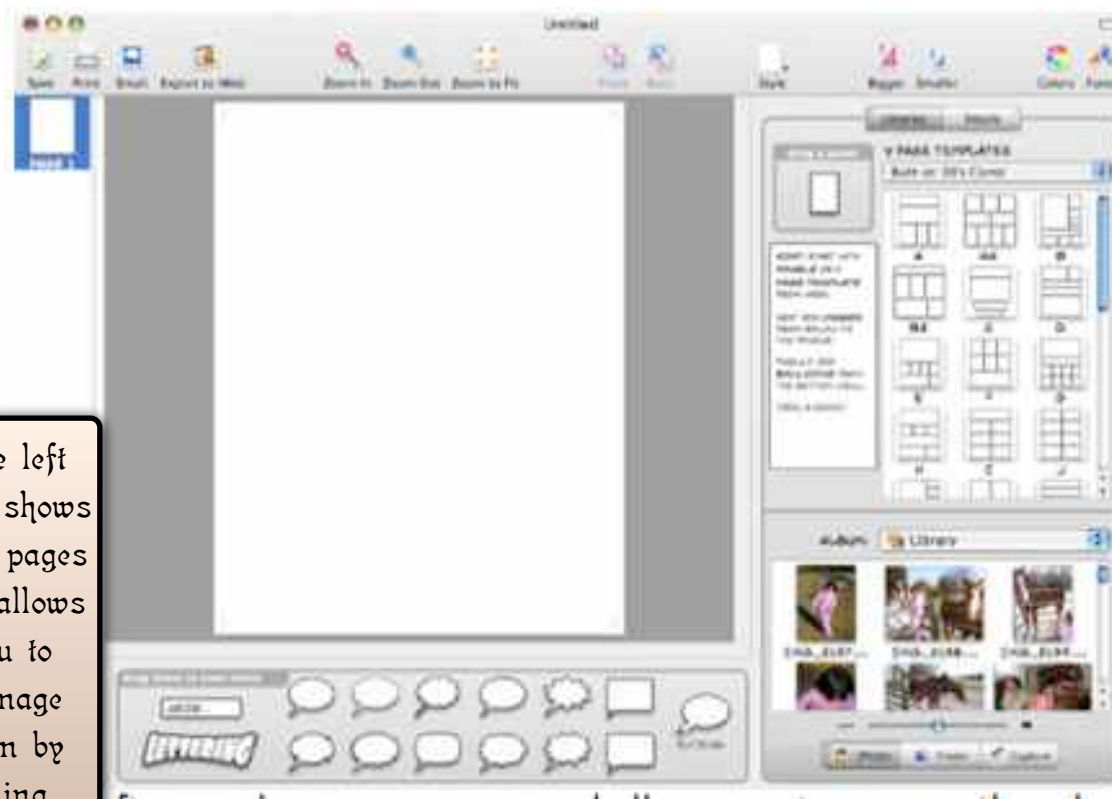
With the ability to export your comic into a variety of formats (HTML, images, iPhoto Album, QuickTime or use your .Mac account to create a blog complete with RSS)

CREATED BY SHARON CARLSON - CORE EDUCATION LTD , USING COMIC LIFE

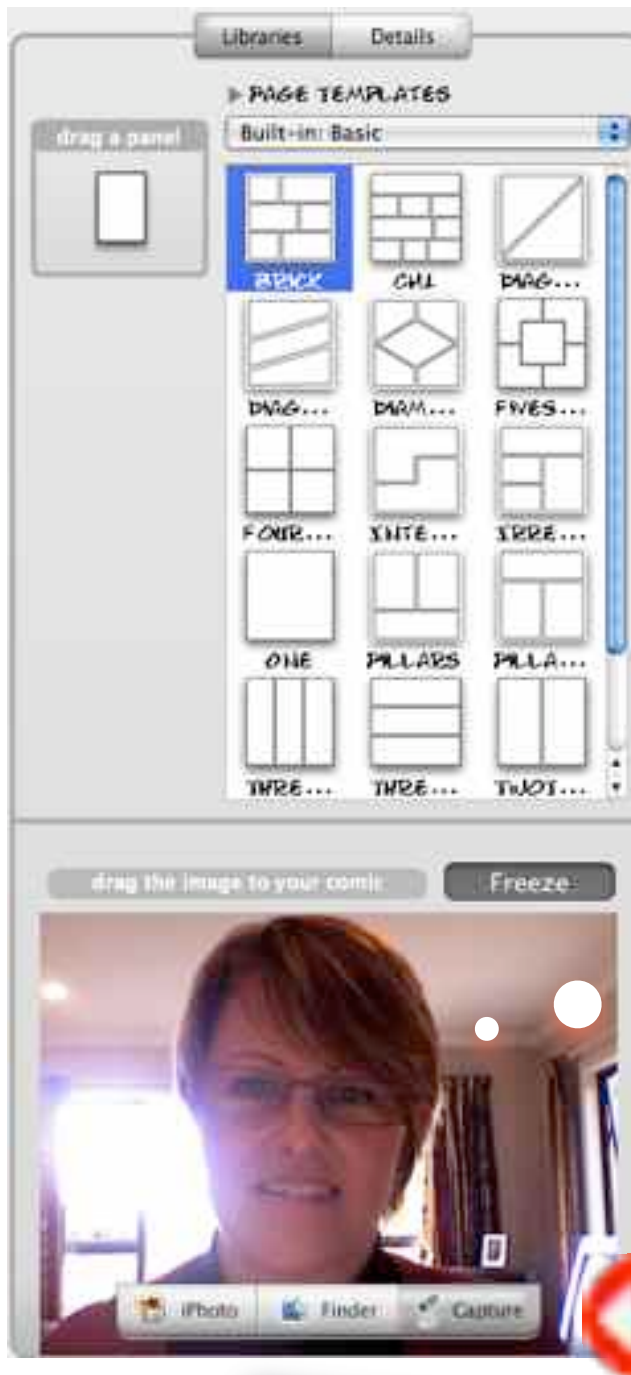
COMIC LIFE INTERFACE

COMIC LIFE GIVES YOU A CLEAN AND SIMPLE INTERFACE TO USE WHEN CREATING YOUR COMIC MASTERPIECE. THE MAIN WINDOW IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR MAJOR PANES.

The left pane shows your pages and allows you to manage them by adding, removing or re-arranging them.



The right side of the window has libraries and settings for page layouts and templates, and also an interface to browse your iPhoto library, albums, and any folder on your hard drive or mounted disks.



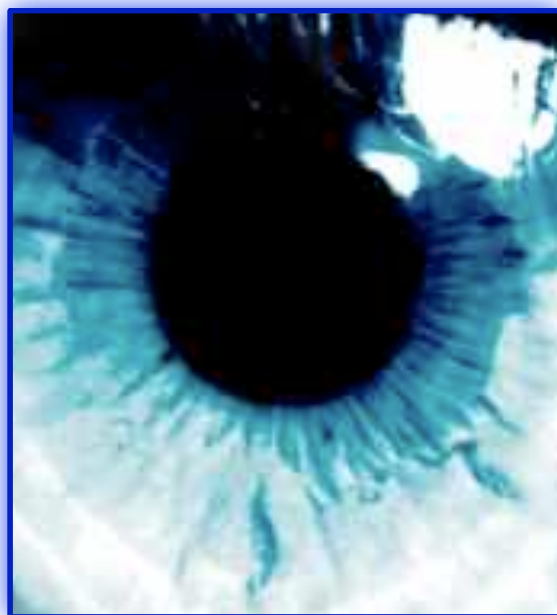
USE THE BUILT-IN IMAGE CAPTURE SYSTEM IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CONNECTED/BUILT-IN CAMERA.

THE BOTTOM SECTION OF THE WINDOW HAS A COLLECTION OF TEXT CONTAINERS TO CREATE ANNOTATIONS, SPEECH AND THOUGHT BUBBLES IN A VARIETY OF STYLES.

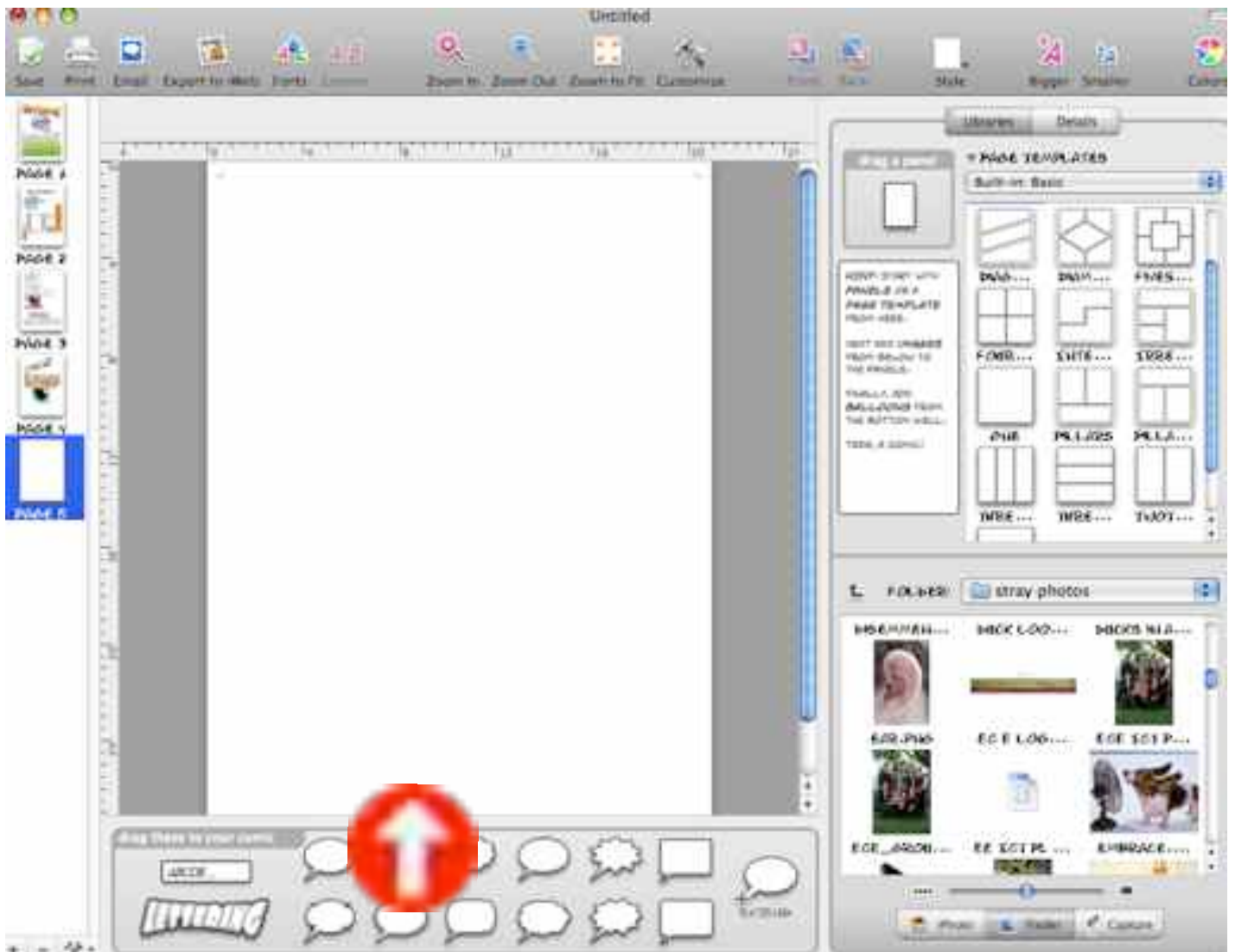




**THE FILTERS YOU APPLY TO
THE TEXT ELEMENTS ALLOW
YOU TO CREATE EYE—**

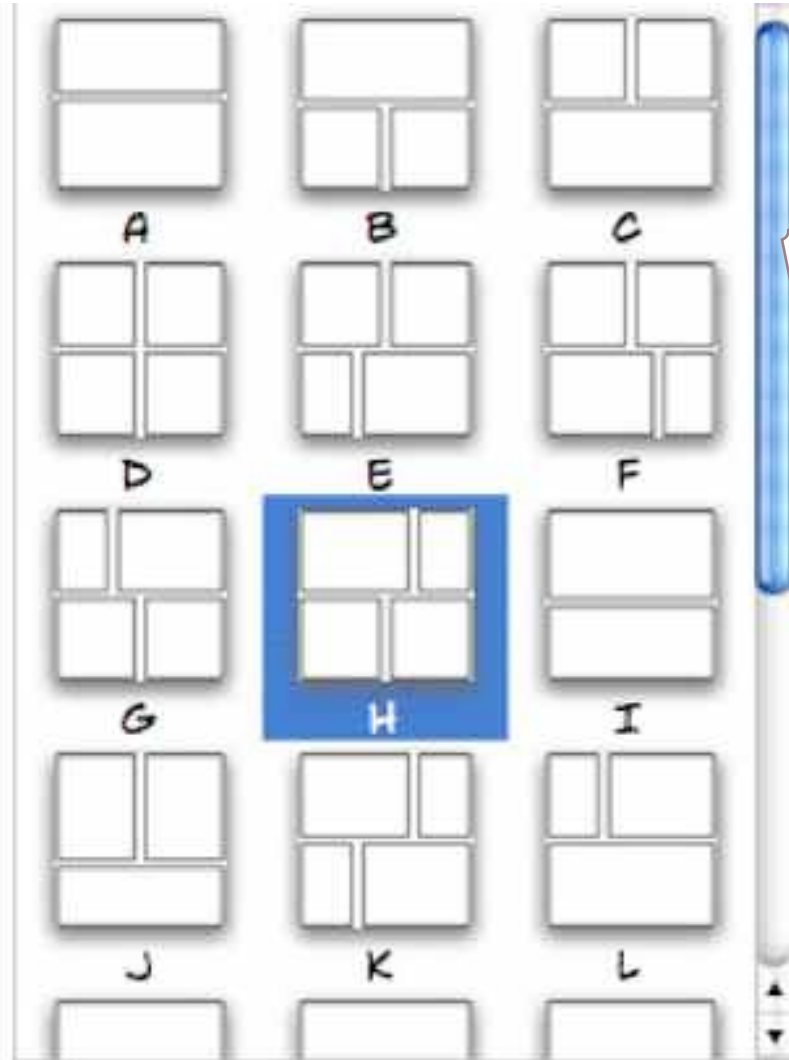


POPPING EFFECTS.

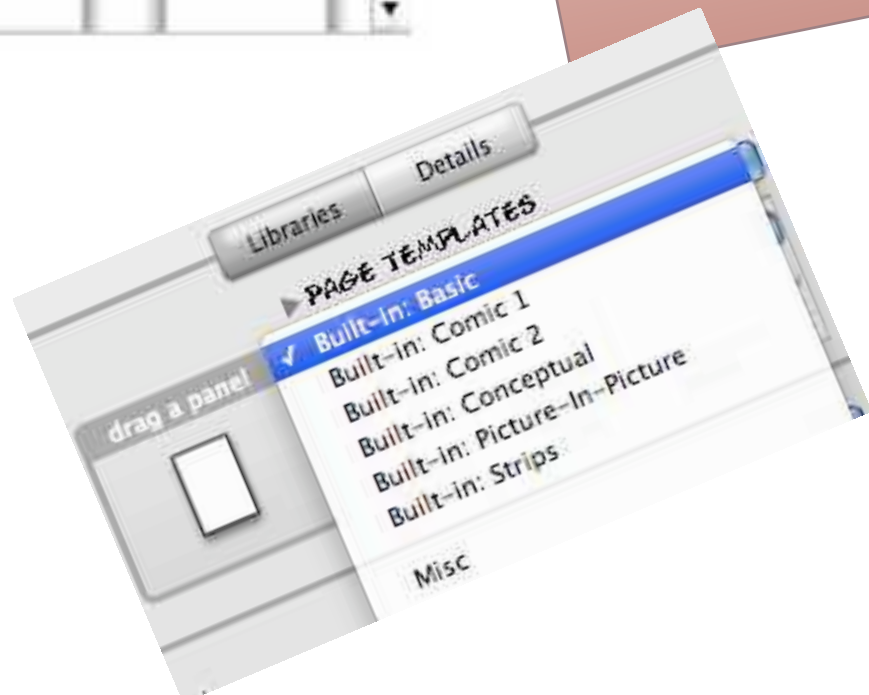


The center pane is where you will complete all of your layout and text entry. It is the pasteboard (or work space) for your pages. With a slick interface, drag and drop convenience, and a huge selection of pre-defined templates and styles, Comic Life allows you to start your comic publishing career in a matter of minutes! You will be able to quickly create dynamic content without spending excessive time learning how to use the tool.

HOW TO CREATE IN COMIC LIFE



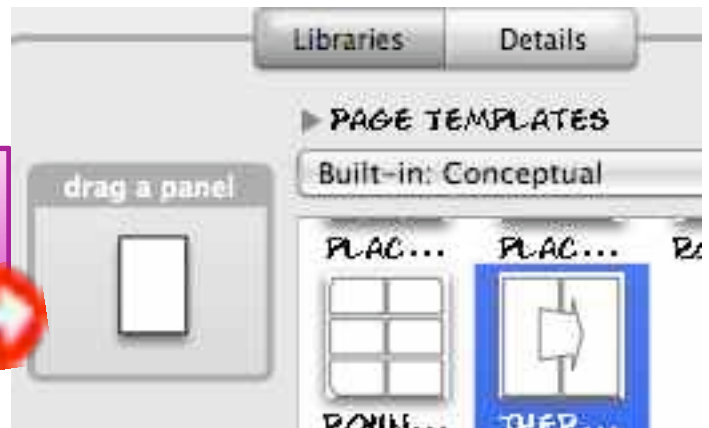
Select a template for your new page. There are over 200 templates in categories such as comics from the 40's, 60's and 80's, manga, graphic novels, and euro comics. Or, you can create your own layout by dragging panels anywhere you want them.





**DRAG AND
DROPPED ONTO
THE EMPTY PAGE**

**DRAG INTO A
PANEL -
FOUND TOP
RIGHT**



Dragging an image onto a panel will put the image into the panel and crop it so the shortest dimension of the image matches the shortest dimension of the panel. You can adjust the panel size/shape separately from the image's size.



NORMAL?



POPART



NEGATIVE



High contrast B&W



COMICIFY

Select a style/filter for digital images. You can leave your images in their unfiltered state, but Comic Life's built-in filters and styles give you some very cool control over how 'comicy' your comic looks. If you don't like the pre-defined styles, you can enter your own filter settings to get that perfect look.

Don't overlook the fact that you can draw your own images (on the computer, or on paper and scan them in) and then include them in your comic once they are in a digital format.

FILTER



Once you have placed an image in a panel, double-click on the image and the Details pane will change to the Image Attributes pane. Adjustments to the image that you can make include flipping the image and maintaining the aspect ratio.

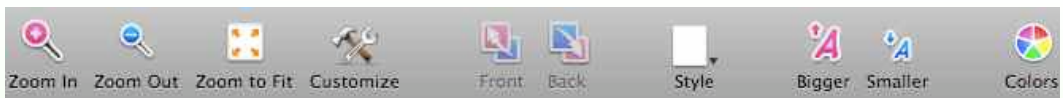
STYLE ATTRIBUTES

From the Style Attributes section you can choose an art style, a filter, a frame, and a shadow.



Once you have panels with pictures on a page you can switch to the Detail Panel. With the detail panel you can change the shape of a panel from a rectangle up to an 8 sided figure. If you want an oval panel, go to the Styles pop-up and select Oval Default. You can fill a panel with solid colors or a gradient which you can adjust. You can turn the frame off or change its color and width. You can also apply a shadow to the frame, choosing its color, amount of blur, and offset from the frame.





TOOLBAR SHORT CUTS



This style option is for the text boxes



AND THIS
STYLE IS FOR
THE SPEECH
BALLOONS -
COOL AH!

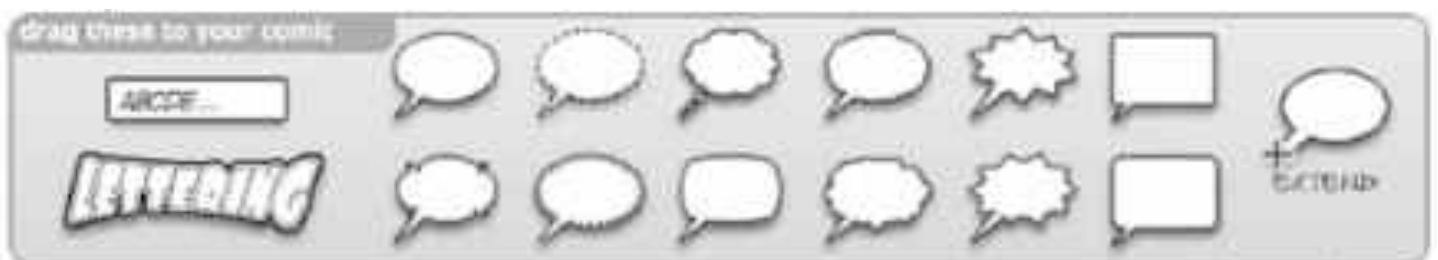


Add text containers and text. Just like almost everything else in Comic Life, adding text is a simple drag and drop process. The text containers at the bottom of the window provide you with different text presentations.

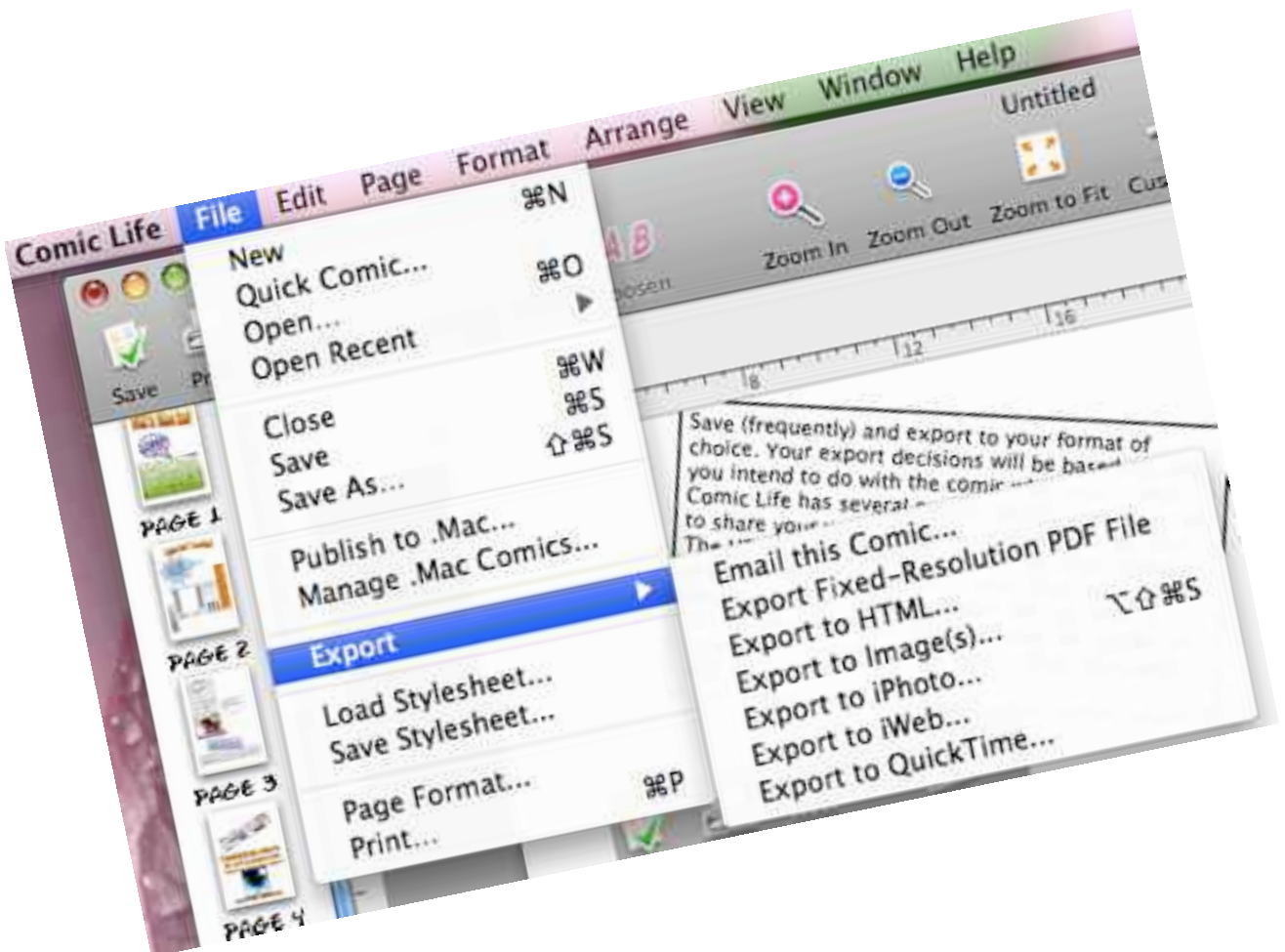
Drag a container into your page and enter your text. If you have a balloon selected, you can drag the tail to associate the speech or thought with a particular character in an image. Additional tails can be added for more than one speaker at a time. Other text containers have options for styles and effects to enhance the text. The controls allow you to stretch, scale, skew, colorize, outline, shade and too many other options to list. The pre-defined options are numerous and individual controls let you take them further.

Nothing says WOW like.....

WOW



Save (frequently) and export to your format of choice. Your export decisions will be based on what you intend to do with the comic when you're done. Comic Life has several export options that allow you to share your work in digital or paper/printed form. The HTML export creates an interface that allows users to 'flip' through your comic page-by-page. Exporting to an album in iPhoto lets you build a quality book and then have it printed by Kodak. (If you're not using iPhoto for that by now, you better look into it!)



OTHER USES FOR COMIC LIFE



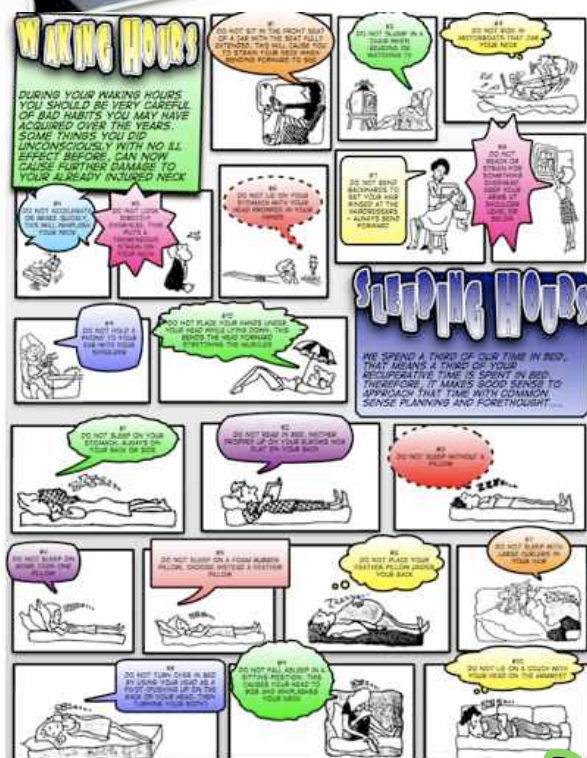
Your imagination is the only thing that limits what you can do with Comic Life. As some of you may have discovered by reading this article, you can create graphics for use on web pages (or other publications) that would be time consuming to create with other tools. Want to show off something that is new or improved? No problem!

Spice up your images, learning stories, displays, documents, newsletters, brochures and web pages. What will you create with this programme?

Learning new things can be fun

TELL A STORY





MORE EXAMPLES ARE AVAILABLE AT:
<http://plasq.com/comiclife/gallery/>